

main embodiments including among other things different locking elements 46. Figures 7 and 9 represent different variations of retaining means 60 for engaging an end of a locking element 46 and Figure 12 represents a variant in which locking element 46 comprises notches 122. It therefore appears that the embodiments of Figures 7, 9, and 12 are more appropriately considered subspecies which can be used in either the species of Figure 1 or the species of Figure 5. Consequently Applicant should be required to at most elect between the two main species of Figures 1 and 5. Further, it is not understood why the Examiner refers to a species in Figure 12, because none of the claims appear to be specific thereto.

Applicant provisionally elects the species of Figure 5.

Claim 1-4 and 10 are generic to the main embodiments of Figures 1 and 5, and also to the variants of Figures 7, 9 and 12.

Claims 5 is directed to the embodiment of Figure 5.

Claim 6 is directed to retaining means 60 illustrated in Figure 6, which is another view of the embodiment of Figure 5. It is believed that this variant of retaining means can also be used in the embodiment of Figure 1.

Claim 7 is directed to the retaining means 60 illustrated in Figure 7, which it is believed can be used in either the embodiment of Figure 1 or the embodiment of Figure 5.

Claim 8 is directed to retaining means 62 illustrated in Figure 2, which is another view of the embodiment of Figure 1. However, it is believed that this retaining means could also be used in the embodiment of Figure 5.

Claim 9 is directed to retaining means illustrated in Figure 9, which it is believed can be used in either the embodiment of Figure 1 or the embodiment of Figure 5.

Consequently, it is believed that all claims cover the embodiment of Figure 5, or sub-embodiments thereof. Further, it is believed that all claims but Claim 5 cover the embodiment of Figure 1, or sub-embodiments thereof.

Wherefore, it is respectfully requested that Claims 1-10 be examined on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 22, 2003

By Jack D. Slobod
Jack D. Slobod Reg.26,236
Attorney
(914) 333-9606

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9326

On: 22 May 2003

By: Eliza De Luccy